

Application No. 10/709,241
Amendment date January, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2004

Amendment to the Specification:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] . In the illustrated embodiment, each hinge 24 is oriented whereby its operation, designated as the arc of rotation of the second link 44 and third link 46 about the third joint 30, is perpendicular to the side of the plate 20 to which it is affixed. This ensures that a horizontal force that is exerted upon the raisable plate 20 in the lateral, longitudinal, or any angular direction, is adequately resisted by the hinge oriented in the same direction, thereby resisting or preventing tilting of the raisable plate 20. Connecting adjacent hinges 24 with a support bracket 90 can further stabilize the hinges and raisable plate 20. This orientation of the hinges allows the raisable frame 20 to resist tilting, relative to the stationary frame 12, and helps to ensure that the raisable frame remains in parallel planar relation with the upper transfer surface 110 of the conveyor 100. A spacer 98 ~~spacer 96~~ is provided between the raisable plate 20 and the hinge 24 to prevent the hinge 24 and the support bracket 90 from contacting the bottom surface of the raisable plate 20. This can enable the hinge 24 to be positioned inboard the outer edge of the raisable plate 20 for personnel safety.